(ii) Lumding-Furkating Rs. 915.71 lacs
Replacement of overhead control and block communication alignment by Optic fibre Cable.

(c) Does not arise.

New Rail Tracks in Andhra Pradesh

598. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new track being laid in South Central Railway in Andhra Pradesh in 1998-99;

(b) which particular sections would be taken up during this period;

(c) whether funds have been allotted for this purpose; and

(d) the details of funding schedules and extent of new track to be completed in 1998-99 in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):

(a) to (d) The details of new lines being taken up by South Central Railway in Andhra Pradesh together with the outlay provided during 1998-99 and their current status are given as under:—

Name of Project NEW LINES	Outlay for 1998-99	Current status
(i) Nandyal-Yerraguntla	Rs. 2.00 crs.	Final location survey has been completed and preparation of land acquisition plans and papers has been taken up and work would be started once the land becomes available.
(ii) Munirabad-Mehboobnagar	Rs. 4.50 crs.	Final Location Survey has been completed. The land acquisition has been taken up and work will be started once the land becomes available.
(iii) Macherla-Nalgonda	Rs. 0.001 crs.	The project has received the necessary clearances. Final Location Survey has been taken up after which land acquisition will be processed. Work would be started once the land becomes available.
(iv) Kakinada-Kotapalli	Rs. 0.001 crs.	The State Govt. has to handover the land fjree of cost in lieu of the land released by the dismantled line which has been heavily built upon by them.
(v) Gadwal-Raichur	Rs. 0.5 crs.	The work has received the requisite clearances. Preliminary arrangements for taking up the work are being made.

Name of Project	Outlay for 1998-99	Current status
(vi) Peddapally-Karimnagar-Nizamabad	1 Rs. 7.00 crs.	Work is being done in phases. In the first phase Peddapally-Karimnagar has been taken up. Earthwork and bridges are in progress and the work is presently targeted for completion by 31-3-2000 subject to availability of resources.

Concession to disabled persons

599. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of changes made in the existing system for granting concession to disabled persons; and

(b) the reasons for modifying the existing system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) On receipt of complaints regarding misuse of concession to disabled persons and also to streamline the procedure, the certificates for grant of concession to Orthopaedically Handicapped/Paraplegic, Blind, Deaf & Dumb and Mentally Retarded persons were revised in May 1998 and acceptance of certificates in old proforma was stopped from 1.1.1999. The major changes made are provision for photograph & address of the disabled person on the certificate and provision of registration number of the Doctor issuing the certificate. Besides, the period of validity of certificate for orthopaedically handicapped/paralegic persons was rationalised and the period of validity of certificates for others was increased from three years to five years.

Vacancies under Khurdha Road Division

600. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of posts are lying vacant under Khurdha Road Division in East Coast Railway;

(b) if so, the vacancy position as on date in Group A, B, C, and D;

(c) the steps taken to fill up these vacancies, particularly Group C and D; and

(d) the details of steps taken to bring about reforms in the recruitment procedures, particularly for Group 'D' candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The vacancy position in Khurdha Road Division is as under:—